

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A rotary trimmer comprising:
one or more cutting blades;
a blade carriage for carrying said one or more cutting blades; and
a rail having one or more guide grooves and being operatively connected to a cutting board, said rail having a biasing element in at least one of said one or more guide grooves, wherein said blade carriage is operatively connected to said rail by said one or more guide grooves, and
wherein said biasing element is connected to said blade carriage so that a force on said blade carriage influences the position of said one or more cutting blades with respect to said cutting board.
2. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, further comprising a blade guard for protecting an operator from direct exposure to said one or more cutting blades.
3. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 2, wherein said blade guard has one or more fasteners for connecting said blade guard to said blade carriage.
4. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 3, wherein said one or more fasteners detachably connect said blade guard to said blade carriage.
5. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 3, wherein said blade guard and said one or more cutting blades are connected so that said blade guard can be used to safely remove and replace said one or more cutting blades with respect to said blade carriage.
6. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 5, wherein said cutting board has one or more storage compartments for storing one or more of said integral blade-guard assemblies.
7. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 2, wherein said blade guard and said one or more cutting blades are connected to form an integral blade-guard assembly.

8. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said biasing element is an elongated beam with one or more flexible arms connected thereto.

9. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 8, wherein said one or more flexible arms are integral to said biasing element.

10. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein each of said one or more cutting blades has a cutting edge with a predefined cutting profile, a planar side portion with one or more apertures therein, and a transition portion between said profiled cutting edge and said planar side portion, said profiled cutting edge being equally extensive with respect to said planar side portion.

11. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said blade carriage is pivotally connected to said rail.

12. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 11, wherein said rail is extruded.

13. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said blade carriage slides along said rail.

14. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said rail is pivotally connected to said cutting board about a single pivot point.

15. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said rail is pivotally connected to said cutting board by two aligned pivot points.

16. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said cutting board has one or more storage compartments for storing said one or more cutting blades.

17. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said cutting board has interchangeable cutting surfaces.

18. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said cutting board is foldable for portability and storage.

19. (Previously Presented) A rotary trimmer comprising:
a blade carriage;
an integral blade-guard assembly having one or more cutting blades secured to a blade guard, the blade guard at least substantially covering said cutting blade; and
a blade-guard assembly fastener for removably connecting the assembly to the blade carriage,

wherein the blade guard assembly is configured to provide a protective barrier for safe and efficient removal or connection of the one or more cutting blades with respect to the blade carriage.

20. (Previously Presented) The rotary trimmer of claim 25, wherein said handle is an arcuate pad extending substantially over said blade carriage.

21. (Previously Presented) The rotary trimmer of claim 20, further comprising an actuator that selectively positions said cutting blade between an operative position and an inoperative position.

22. (Previously Presented) The rotary trimmer of claim 21, wherein said actuator slidably positions said cutting blade along a linear path between said inoperative position and said operative position, and wherein said linear path is oblique with respect to a cutting surface when in operative use.

23. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 20, wherein said handle is elongated and has a hand gripping portion and a neck connecting said hand gripping portion to said blade carriage.

24. (Previously Presented) The rotary trimmer of claim 19, further comprising a clip that secures said cutting blade to said guard.

25. (Previously Presented) The rotary trimmer of claim 19, further comprising a handle on said blade carriage, said handle enabling a user to effectively manipulate and/or guide said one or more cutting blades along any of a variety of different cut patterns.

26. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 21, wherein said actuator is a trigger in said neck of said handle.

27. (Previously Presented) The rotary trimmer of claim 21, wherein said actuator selectively interacts with the fastener situated on said blade carriage to bring about said positioning of said one or more cutting blades.

28. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 19, wherein said blade carriage has a connector enabling said blade carriage to be selectively and operatively connected to different tools.

29. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 28, wherein said different tools are selected from a group consisting of a rail operatively connected to a cutting board and a hand-held tool with an elongated handle.

30. (Withdrawn) A rotary trimmer comprising:
one or more cutting blades;
a blade carriage for carrying said one or more blades, said blade carriage having a connector; and
a rail having one or more guide grooves, said rail being operatively connected to a cutting board,
wherein said connector enables said blade carriage to be selectively and operatively connected to said rail via said one or more guide grooves, and wherein said blade carriage enables a user to effectively manipulate or guide said one or more cutting blades along any of a variety of different cut patterns.

31. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 30, wherein said connector has one or more tabs for engagement with said one or more guide grooves.

32. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of claim 31, wherein said connector has one or more elements to selectively secure said blade carriage to one or more matching fastening elements of said hand-held tool.

Claims 33-35 (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A rotary trimmer comprising:
one or more cutting blades;
an integral blade-guard assembly having a cutting blade secured to a blade guard, the blade guard at least substantially covering said cutting blade; and
a blade carriage for carrying said integral blade-guard assembly, wherein said blade carriage has a connector enabling said blade carriage to be selectively and operatively connected to different tools.

37. (Previously Presented) The rotary trimmer of claim 36, wherein said different tools are selected from a group consisting of a rail operatively connected to a cutting board and a hand-held tool with an elongated handle.

38. (Previously Presented) A rotary trimmer comprising:
a blade carriage;
a fastener situated on said blade carriage;
an integral blade-guard assembly having a cutting blade secured to a blade guard, the blade guard at least substantially covering said cutting blade, the assembly received on the fastener; and
an actuator that selectively positions said cutting blade between an operative position and an inoperative position,
wherein the integral blade-guard assembly-is readily removed from said blade carriage.

39. (Currently Amended) A rotary trimmer comprising:
a blade carriage;
a fastener situated on said blade carriage;
a cutting blade received on said fastener;
a guard at least substantially covering said cutting blade and secured to said cutting blade;
and
a handle on said blade carriage,
wherein said cutting blade and said guard are connected to form ~~an~~ a single integral
blade-guard assembly, the single piece assembly being removably attached to the carriage. ~~that~~
~~can be removed from said blade carriage.~~